



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Sets Monthly Open House Schedule

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is currently hosting monthly Open Houses to welcome community members to visit and experience the first urban national wildlife refuge in the Southwest. The Open Houses continue to gain in popularity and attendance. All events at the Refuge, including Open Houses, are free and open to the public and are located at 7521 Second Street SW—just 3.5 miles south of Rio Bravo. The Refuge is pleased to announce its Open House schedule for 2015.

Saturday, January 24 (1:00pm to 4:00 pm) **Winter Wellness**

Start the year off with winter wellness. Local yoga instructor Julia Grueskin will lead children and adults in a bird-themed practice of variations of eagle, peacock, swan, heron and pigeon poses. Guided walks and other nature based opportunities will also be offered.

Saturday, February 14 (9:00am to 12:00 pm) **Junior Great Backyard Bird Count**

Valle de Oro NWR celebrates its first Junior Great Backyard Bird Count. Children 8 to 14 years of age can participate and parents, grandparents, and friends are welcome too! The day will begin with an introduction to binocular use followed by a bird identification workshop. Participants will then spend the morning with experienced birders to count as many birds as they can!

Saturday, March 14 (9:00 to 12:00pm) **Wonders of Wind**

Think of spring in New Mexico and one of the first things that comes to mind is wind. Sometimes we can't wait until the windy weather is over, but join us in celebration of wind. Learn how plants use wind to pollinate, how scientists measure wind speed and bring a kite to display in the clear blue sky!

Saturday, April 25 (1:00 to 4:00pm) **Conservation Careers**

Saturday, May 16 (9:00am to 12:00pm) **Citizen Science & the Art of Observation**

Saturday, June 20 (9:00am to 12:00pm)	Powered By The Sun
Saturday, July 11 (9:00am to 12:00pm)	Recycled Art
Saturday, August 15 (9:00am to 12:00pm)	Native Plants and Pollinators
Saturday, September 26 (9:00am to 3:00 pm)	Valle de Oro's 3rd Birthday
Saturday, October 10 (1:00pm to 4:00pm)	Fall Colors
Saturday, November 14 (1:00pm to 4:00pm)	Music and Migration
Saturday, December 12 (1:00pm to 4:00pm)	Gifts for Wildlife

For more information about Valle de Oro Refuge events and open houses please visit the Refuge Facebook page and website:

<https://www.facebook.com/ValleDeOroNationalWildlifeRefuge>

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro/

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For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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